

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L THESSALONIKI 0511

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, PFOR, GR, NATO

SUBJECT: COMMENTARY ON GREEK MILITARY WITHDRAWAL FROM NATO

1. IN LENGTHY FRONT-PAGE FEATURE AUGUST 22, "ELLINIKOS VORRAS" EDITOR ELIAS KYROU APPLAUDS GREECE'S MILITARY WITHDRAWAL FROM NATO. MAJOR POINTS FOLLOW.

2. SINCE ITS ACCEPTANCE INTO NATO WITH TURKEY IN 1951, GREECE HAS BEEN TREATED AS "POOR RELATIVE" BY UNITED STATES WHICH CONCURRENTLY PROVIDING "ABUNDANT" MILITARY AND ECONOMIC GRANTS TO TURKEY. UNTIL "ABOUT 1960" NATO PLANS CALLED FOR ABANDONMENT OF ALL NORTHERN GREECE IN EVENT OF GENERAL WAR AND ESTABLISHMENT OF FIRST DEFENSE LINE NEAR MT. OLYMPUS. NOT UNTIL KARAMANLIS MADE "HARD EFFORT" WAS NORTHERN GREECE INCLUDED IN DEFENSE SYSTEM WITH AN "ADVANCED STRATEGY".

3. TO IMPLEMENT THIS STRATEGY A STRONG GREEK ARMY, NAVY AND AIR FORCE WERE NEEDED AT SIDE OF SIXTH FLEET. BUT NO SUCH AID WAS EVER GIVEN BY US AND NATO. GREECE, WHICH MOBILIZED 550,000 MEN AND ARMED 25 DIVISIONS IN 1940, SHOULD HAVE FORCES AT LEAST EQUAL TO BULGARIA, CONFIDENTIAL

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WHICH LONG HAS HAD THREE ARMORED DIVISIONS, SOME REPORTS

SAY SEVEN, AND "ALL KINDS OF NUCLEAR ARMAMENTS". THIS DEMONSTRATES LEVEL OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE GIVEN BY USSR TO NEIGHBORING COUNTRY AND REVEALS "MYSTERIOUS POLICY OF US".

4. NATO PLANS TO RESTRICT GREECE TO ARMY OF 270 TO 300,000 (SIC: FIGURE PRESUMABLY INCLUDES RESERVES) DO NOT PROVIDE ADEQUATE MANPOWER TO DENY CLASSIC INVASION ROUTES DOWN AXIOS, OR THROUGH FLORINA, RUPEL AND NEVROKOPI. IN FACE OF SUCH POLICY, GREECE'S PARTICIPATION IN NATO CONSTITUTES ONLY TEMPTATION TO WARSAW PACT, "CREATING DANGERS AND NO SECURITY AT ALL". AND HOW CAN ONE SPEAK OF SECURITY WHEN NATO FAILED TO STOP AMERICAN-SUPPORTED INVASION OF CYPRUS, WHICH RESULTED IN KARAMANLIS DECISION TO WITHDRAW FROM ATLANTIC PACT. THIS IS "RIGHT POLICY FOR NATION, GREECE SHOULD BE OUT OF NATO,EXPANDING HER ECONOMY---AND ORGANIZING HER OWN DEFENSE".

5. "IF THEY NEED THIS AREA, WESTERN COUNTRIES WILL HASTEN TO HELP US"; IF THEY DON'T "THEY WOULD ABANDON US, WHETHER WE BELONG TO NATO OR NOT. --- SO FAR NATO HAS BEEN ONLY A LOSS AND A TRAGEDY TO US.--- IT IS ABOUT TIME THAT WE QUIT PERMANENTLY".

6. COMMENT: WE HAVE OFTEN NOTED CLOSE VORRAS, AND IN PARTICULAR KYROU, RELATIONSHIP WITH GREEK ARMY OFFICER ELEMENTS. WE STRONGLY SUSPECT THAT EDITORIAL, ALTHOUGH UNDER KYROU BANNER, WAS WRITTEN EITHER BY OR IN CLOSE COLLABORATION WITH GREEK MILITARY. TONE, STYLE, PROFESSIONAL KNOWLEDGE, AND LACK OF CHARACTERISTIC KYROU VITUPERATION, ALL SUGGEST SOME OTHER AUTHOR. IF SO, IT COULD BE INDICATION THAT SOME WITHIN GREEK MILITARY, OR RETIRED, ARE SETTING BACKFIRE AGAINST WHAT WE UNDERSTAND TO BE GROWING DOUBTS AMONG GREEK OFFICERS AS TO WISDOM OF MILITARY PULL-OUT FROM NATO.
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